

my intent to add the Republic of Kosovo (Kosovo) and the Republic of Azerbaijan (Azerbaijan) to the list of beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program.

In Proclamation 8272 of June 30, 2008, I designated Serbia as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program. On February 17, 2008, Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia. Pursuant to section 502 of the 1974 Act, and having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c) of the 1974 Act, and in light of Kosovo's independence from Serbia, I have determined that Kosovo should be designated as a separate GSP beneficiary developing country.

In addition, having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that Azerbaijan should be designated as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

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## **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### **December 13**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President traveled to Baghdad, Iraq, arriving the following afternoon.

The President declared an emergency in Massachusetts and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local response efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm beginning on December 11 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in New Hampshire and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm beginning on December 11 and continuing.

### **December 14**

In the afternoon, at Salam Palace, the President met with President Jalal Talabani and Vice Presidents Adil Abd Al-Mahdi and Tariq al-Hashimi of Iraq.

In the evening, the President traveled to the Prime Minister's palace, where he met with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq. Later, he participated in an interview with ABC News. He then traveled to Camp Victory.

Later in the evening, the President traveled to Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan, arriving the following morning.

### **December 15**

In the morning, the President traveled to the Presidential Palace in Kabul, Afghanistan. Later, President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan awarded him the Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan Insignia. He then returned to Bagram Air Force Base, where he met with U.S. Special Forces personnel.

Later in the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the afternoon. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had an intelligence briefing.

The President declared an emergency in Maine and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm beginning on December 11 and continuing.

### **December 16**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority to the White House on December 19.

### **December 17**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Carlisle, PA, arriving in the afternoon.

Later in the afternoon, at the U.S. Army War College, the President met with Army

War College students. He then returned to Washington, DC.

**December 18**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Special Envoy to Sudan Richard S. Williamson to discuss the situation in Darfur and the status of the proposed North-South peace agreement.

The President declared an emergency in New York and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm beginning on December 11 and continuing.

**December 19**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Grand Foyer, the President participated in a photo opportunity with recipients of the 2007 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers.

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**Nominations  
Submitted to the Senate**

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NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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**Checklist  
of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

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**Released December 13**

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Massachusetts

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New Hampshire

**Released December 14**

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Dana Perino, National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley, and Deputy National Security Adviser for Iraq and Afghanistan Lt. Gen. Douglas E. Lute, USA

**Released December 15**

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Maine

Fact sheet: Diversifying Our Energy Supply and Confronting Climate Change

**Released December 16**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to Washington

**Released December 17**

Fact sheet: President Bush Has Kept America Safe

**Released December 18**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New York

**Released December 19**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino and Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Joel Kaplan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 6859 and S.J. Res. 46

Fact sheet: Financing Assistance To Facilitate the Restructuring of Auto Manufacturers to Attain Financial Viability